

GREETINGS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

By PRESIDENT GORDON GRAY

I am happy to have been given the privilege of extending a welcome and saying a word of greeting to this extremely important conference, and to you who are in attendance here.

It seems to me that the aims and purposes of a conference on the question of what can be done with respect to handicapped children are quite in keeping with the aims and purposes of this institution, this institution being the first university in this country which was truly a people's university, it being the first one organized at the time which was not under either colonial auspices or under religious auspices.

This is the first institution which the people created for the people and out of the resources of the people, and we have therefore, since we received our first student in 1795, had in mind obligations and opportunities which went beyond the usual and vital and necessary functions of a university, which are of course increasing knowledge, disseminating knowledge, teaching and training.

We have always felt that we were in a position of having an obligation of broad educational service to the people whose university this is, and we have always been concerned with the well-being of our citizens, their well-being in every respect. But of course not least in importance is the health of our people.

All of us are touched by the plight of handicapped children, and all of us are eager to see what might be done to improve their situation. I am quite conscious of this because I have four sons of my own, none of whom is handicapped. I am therefore blessed four times.

We in the university welcome you as a group who will consider problems not alien to our own university purposes and functions. We are happy to have you here in our institution; we are happy to have you on this old campus where beauty and truth dwell in happy partnership. On behalf of the university I officially express to you our best wishes for a productive conference, for a happy conference, and for one which may have far-reaching and important effects, not only now in the state, not only in this region, but in the country at large. We are grateful for your presence.